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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/580,312	05/25/2006	Masaki Ikeda	Q94642	5660
23373	7590	10/07/2008	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			HARTMAN JR, RONALD D	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		2121	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/580,312	Applicant(s) IKEDA ET AL.
	Examiner RONALD D. HARTMAN JR	Art Unit 2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 July 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Akasaka et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,576,986; or in the alternative, as being clearly anticipated by Sato et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0026295.

Claim 1 recites an automatic design system comprising an automatic designing means for computing output value information in compliance with output value computing information containing computational expressions, based on input value information required for automatic design of a product; a draughting information forming means for forming draughting information to display the input value information, the output value information, and a drawing showing a shape based on the input value information and the output value information; an image displaying means for displaying a drawing based on the draughting information; and an attribute changing means for changing a display attribute on a drawing displayed by the image displaying means such that a display mode of the input value information is made different distinguishably from display modes of other information.

These features appear to be anticipated by utilizing CAD to input dimensions of a product and using “computational expressions” to ascertain a design shape of that product, which is then displayed.

These features are anticipated by Akasaka et al. (e.g. See Figure 1 which shows the overall design structure. Also see Figure 14 for another representation of the

system. Also see Figures 15-19 for setting “constraints”. Also see Figures 24-36 for various screenshots graphically depicting feature commensurate with the applicants claim. Also see Figure 40 for graphically depicting a change in a set of constraints. Also see Figure 58 for a layout pattern template. Also see Figures 59 and 71).

These features are also believed to be anticipated by Sato et al (e.g. See Figures 3, 5 and 12-15 for graphical depictions of the applicants claim).

As per claims 4 and 7, the rejection of claim 1, from above, is applied herein.

As per claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-18, all of the features are believed either inherent to, or adequately disclosed by Akasaka et al., or in the alternative, Sato et al., and by the representative citations of each (see above).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, as set forth above in this office action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RONALD D. HARTMAN JR whose telephone number is (571)272-3684. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 11:00 - 8:30 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ronald D Hartman Jr./

Examiner, Art Unit 2121

September 29, 2008

RDH